

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SAM-01 SS-20

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 46

INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 1219

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OCON, XM, MX

SUBJ: PRELIMINARY MEETING FOR MFM.

BRASILIA FOR KUBISCH

REF: MEXICO 1218

MARQUEZ SERE, URUGUAYAN AMBASSADOR TO THE OAS AND REPRESENTATIVE TO THE PRELIMINARY MEETING GAVE ME AT LUNCH TODAY A RESUME OF THE OPENING SESSION OF THE PRELIMINARY MEETING THIS MORNING. THE FOLLOWING ARE THE MAIN POINTS:

A. THE ATMOSPHERE AT THE MEETING IS DISTINCTLY CONSTRUCTIVE AND OPTIMISTIC, THOUGH NO ONE EXPECTS MIRACLES TO COME OUT OF THE MFM. THE PRELIMINARY MEETING IS LIKE THE BOGOTA MEETING IN THAT COOPERATION IS THE WATCHWORD AMONG THE PARTICIPANTS. BUT THIS TIME, UNLIKE IN BOGOTA, ALL OF THE LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES SEEM TO BE WHOLEHEARTEDLY WORKING TOWARD A REALISTIC AND MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL OUTCOME. (MARQUEX SERE RECALLED THAT SEVERAL COUNTRIES, INCLUDING HIS OWN, WERE DUBIOUS ABOUT THE BOGOTA MEETING AND WERE NOT REPRESENTED IN BOGOTA BY THEIR FOREIGN MINISTERS. HE SAID THIS SKEPTICISM NO LONGER EXISTS.)

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B. THE MEETING GOT RIGHT DOWN TO BUSINESS AND THERE WAS A

VIRTUAL CONSENSUS THAT SET SPEECHES SHOULD BE AVOIDED, IN SO FAR AS POSSIBLE. PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA WOULD SPEAK FIRST AND SECRETARY KISSINGER AND AN AS-YET-UNNAMED LATIN AMERICAN FOREIGN MINISTER WOULD ALSO SPEAK AT INAUGURAL (PUBLIC) SESSION. THEREAFTER, THE SECRETARY WOULD IN CLOSED SESSION, COMMENT IN DETAIL ON THE EIGHT-POINT AGENDA AND THE DECLARATION OF BOGOTA. ONE REPRESENTATIVE (WHOM MARQUEX SERE DID NOT IDENTIFY) DISSENTED FROM THIS ARRANGEMENT, BUT MARQUEZ SERE FELT THAT THIS ARRANGEMENT WAS ASSURED OF ULTIMATE APPROVAL BY THE MEETING. THE PROCEDURE OUTLINED IS OF COURSE SUBJECT TO U.S. CONCURRENCE. BARBADOS URGED ACTUAL U.S. PARTICIPATION IN THE PREPARATORY MEETING, PARTICULARLY IF THERE SHOULD BE ANY DRAFTING. THE MEXICANS GAVE ASSURANCES THAT THE U.S. WOULD BE KEPT CLOSELY INFORMED OF CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS VIA THE EMBASSY AND WOULD BE BROUGHT IN ON ANY DRAFTING SESSIONS AT AN APPROPRIATE TIME. FOLLOWING THE KISSINGER PRESENTATION THERE WOULD PROBABLY BE A CAUCUS OF THE LATIN FOREIGN MINISTERS TO COORDINATE THEIR RESPONSES TO KISSINGER'S REMARKS, THOUGH THIS HAS NOT YET BEEN APPROVED BY THE MEETING.

C. THE MEETING HAS NOT YET REACHED THE POINT OF TRYING TO DECIDE WHO WILL BE THE LATIN SPOKESMEN IN THE DIALOGUE, AND THIS PROMISES TO BE THE MOST DIFFICULT TASK FACING THE MEETING. LIKE BRAZILIAN AMBASSADOR MACIEL (MEXICO 1180) MARQUEZ SERE BELIEVES THAT, IN CONTRAST TO BOGOTA, IT SHOULD BE RELATIVELY EASY FOR THE PREPARATORY MEETING TO ACHIEVE ITS GOAL OF LAYING THE GROUNDWORK FOR A CONSTRUCTIVE MEETING.

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